

business procedures being allowed to execute some of the related business processes simultaneously, said workflow control method comprising the steps of:

previously defining status changes to be detected in related business processes which are allowed to be executed simultaneously with each other by said client computers;

detecting an occurrence of an abnormal status change in one of the plurality of related business processes;

selecting at least one user who is in charge of a business process interdependent to the business process in which the abnormal status change was detected; and

notifying a client computer corresponding to a selected user of the occurrence of abnormality in the related business process so as to prevent the selected user from executing the interdependent business process.

5. (Twice Amended) A workflow system connected to a plurality of client computers for executing business procedures each including a plurality of related business processes, at least one of the business procedures being allowed to execute some of the related business processes simultaneously, comprising:

a status watcher for detecting a status change in a business process being executed, including an occurrence of an abnormal status change in the business process;

a workflow engine connected to the status watcher, for controlling the execution of each of the business procedures based on the status change detected by the status watcher and predetermined business procedure definitions; and

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a notifier for notifying at least one of the client computers of the occurrence of the abnormal status change detected by the status watcher, when the user of the client computer is in charge of a business process interdependent to a business process in which the abnormal status change was detected, so as to prevent the user from executing the interdependent business process.

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12. (Amended) A workflow management system for controlling an order of execution of business procedures each including a plurality of related business processes and at least one business procedure being allowed to execute some of the related business processes simultaneously, said workflow management system comprising:

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a client application to be executed by one or more client computers;
a server application to be executed by a server computer for communicating with the client application;
an application database for storing data for the server application;
a status watcher for detecting a status change in a business process being executed in the application database, including an occurrence of a discontinuance in a business process;

a workflow engine for controlling the execution of each of the business procedures based on the status change detected by the status watcher and predetermined business procedure definitions; and

a notifier for notifying the occurrence of a discontinuance in the business process to at least one of the client computers, when a user of the client computer is in charge of a business process interdependent to the business process in which the discontinuance was detected, so as to prevent the user from executing the interdependent business process.

-17. A workflow management system connected to a plurality of client computers for controlling an order of execution of business procedures each including a plurality of related business processes and at least one business procedure being allowed to execute some of the related business processes simultaneously, said workflow management system comprising:

means for defining status changes to be detected in related business processes which are allowed to be executed simultaneously with each other by the client computers;

a status watcher configured to detect a status change in a business process being executed, including an occurrence of a discontinuance in a business process, among the related business processes executed simultaneously;

a workflow engine configured to control the execution of each of the business procedures based on the status change detected by the status watcher and predetermined business procedure definitions; and

a notifier configured to notify the occurrence of a discontinuance in the business process to at least one of the client computers, when a user of the client computer is in charge of a business process interdependent to the business process in which the discontinuance was detected, so as to prevent the user from executing the interdependent business process.

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18. The workflow management system according to claim 17, further comprising a resource selector configured to receive an instruction and an identifier of the business process on which the discontinuance was detected from the workflow engine, and select the client computer to be notified of the discontinuance by referring predetermined rules previously defining the relation between predetermined business procedures and client computers.

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19. The workflow management system according to claim 18, wherein the status watcher, the workflow engine, the notifier and the resource selector are individual programs executed concurrently to control the execution of each of the business procedures.

20. The workflow management system according to claim 17, further comprising an exception handler unit configured to create attributes to handle the discontinuance of the business process detected by the status watcher; and a user retrieval unit configured to select the user of the client computer who is in charge of a